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FRANK A. MUNSEY

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MONDAY EVENING, MAY 17, 1909.

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and The Star for April:
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The Star.....38,732

TWO APPOINTMENTS BACKED BY GOOD SENSE.

Two efficient men received reward for faithful service yesterday when President Taft nominated Charles Denby, of Indiana, to be consul general at Vienna, and Dr. Amos P. Wilder, of Wisconsin, to be consul general at Shanghai. Both these appointments are in the nature of promotions in the consular service. Mr. Denby has been consul general at Shanghai since the days of John Goodnow, and Dr. Wilder has been at Hongkong for the past four years.

To no officers of the consular service have there been more difficult problems presented than to these two men. The condition of the United States consular service in the Orient a few years ago was a disgrace. The Chinese people have always regarded America and Americans with favor, and yet it has been Americans who have perpetrated some of the most barbed swindles on these confiding people.

In Hongkong a long period of inefficiency had made the American consulate a joke. It was under the most trying circumstances that Dr. Wilder took charge of the office. He has made it a power in the community and he became one of the kind of men the Government to which he was accredited took delight in honoring. A genial, pleasant official, and a hard, constant worker, he revolutionized consular affairs at his station, and it is safe to say his departure from Hongkong will bring out emphatic expressions of regret.

In Shanghai Mr. Denby had a most difficult position to fill. A son of the late Charles Denby, former minister to the Flowery Kingdom, the consul general had spent most of his early life among the Chinese and knew them thoroughly. He had also absorbed much of the spirit of the Orient, and was probably of all persons the best equipped for the position he was called upon to fill had all things been equal.

But things were not equal. Mr. Denby was placed in the very difficult position of standing between the friends of a lifetime and Judge Lebeaux W. Willey. Not that any of Mr. Denby's friends were in danger from Judge Willey's activities. But his honor was unpopular and he was called upon to do a lot of things that made him more unpopular. While every man and woman who knows anything of the circumstances cannot but applaud the Willey crusade and feel happy in the general results attained, the judge himself did not take well with the people of Shanghai, all of whom were Mr. Denby's friends, and Mr. Denby was compelled by common decency and his official position to support Judge Willey in everything he did.

This condition of things placed the consul general in a most unhappy position. But he filled every requirement of the place and is easily today one of the best men in the consular service. All his education and training have been along these lines. The United States will lose a power for good in China when Mr. Denby leaves Shanghai, although Dr. Wilder is qualified to fill the office so exceptionally well.

"OH, THE DOCTRINAIRES ARE AT IT AGAIN."

Doctrinaires and muck-rakers are, of course, at the bottom of the whole agitation for a merit system in our local and national governments. Nobody else wants it. The whole theory of it is paternalism and the hope is of fastening on the pay rolls the names of a lot of men and women afraid of losing their jobs.

But isn't it strange, if this is so, that a great corporation like the Pennsylvania Railroad should not only enforce a merit system, but go the whole length of paternalism and pay retirement pensions? As a matter of fact every teaching of modern business life is that merit appointments and promotions are indispensable to an economical and efficient organization. The Pennsylvania is only one of thousands of large concerns that teach this lesson.

Let us look a moment at this pension fund of the "Penn." Since it was established in 1900 the sum of \$3,445,793.77 has been paid to retired employees. This does not include the operating expenses, which in 1908 amounted to \$5,369.47. The number of retired employees on the roll December 31, 1908, was 2,176. And all employees, no matter of what rank, receive pension at

lowances on relatively equal terms. For every year of service the workmen is paid 1 per cent of his average salary for the ten years immediately preceding his withdrawal from the service.

The next time there is talk of a real merit system in this jurisdiction let us remember this. Let us consider that it and its correlative, retirement on pension after years of faithful service, have been worked out as indispensable to good administration in the largest and most practical of non-governmental institutions. Then let us be ready with the answer the next time we hear somebody say—

"Oh, the doctrinaires are at it again."

BUSINESS CONDITIONS ARE MENDING FAST.

Business is steadily recovering from the depression which followed the panic of nineteen months ago. Nearly every branch of industry is expanding, bank clearings, railroad earnings, the investment markets and building operations reflecting returning confidence. Local bank exchanges are about 35 per cent greater than they were a year ago, and now approximate the level established before overextension of credit brought on the semi-stagnation in trade.

Earnings of some of the more important railroads of the country have reached record-breaking proportions, and generally receipts of these corporations are well above those of a year ago and compare favorably with 1907, the banner year in the history of railroads. Building operations are going ahead at a satisfactory rate and consumption of structural steel is in larger volume than for several years. In this branch of industry only the demand for steel rails lags, and even here there are signs of slow revival.

This week the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul placed an order for 60,000 tons, and other roads are said to be in the market for large amounts of material. The number of idle freight cars, which a year ago approximated 400,000, is now less than 200,000, and every day witnesses a further reduction.

There are now no dark spots upon the financial horizon, the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States recognizing the right of railroads to own stocks in coal companies and haul products of such concerns without violating the Hepburn law having removed the last factor which disturbed the situation. Tariff agitation still hangs over the commercial world, but this question probably will soon be settled, and then it is confidently expected that business will make even greater progress than it is making now.

AN INDIAN STATUE FOR NEW YORK'S HARBOR.

The proposition by Rodman Wana-maker that a colossal statue of an American Indian be placed at the entrance to New York harbor in such a manner that it and Bartholdi's Goddess of Liberty may make a gateway is attracting wide attention from artists and idealists.

The project appeals in more than one aspect. It would memorialize in lasting bronze a decimated and cruelly abused people. It would show that posterity regrets the injustices that were worked by the founders of America.

The statue suggested by Mr. Wana-maker would be imposing. It would tell the immigrant and the visitor a tragic story. It would be a picturesque detail in one of the most beautiful harbors of the world.

The British government is worried about the American meat trust. Its gradual extension to other meat-producing countries suggests to the English cousins the possibility of a world-wide trust, and it doesn't look good to the beef-eating Englishers. Confidentially, it doesn't look very good to us, but we are giving it protection as an infant industry.

Among other things it is announced that taupe shoes will be much worn. Whatever taupe is it seems to be coming into its own.

As the Hon. Truman H. Newberry looks back upon the Pandora's box of troubles he turned loose in the Navy Department, he must be getting some faint satisfaction out of the worries he conferred on the man who got his Cabinet seat away from him.

The Sugar trust people are pleading not guilty to fraud in connection with the weightings in New York. Wonder if they would have the nerve to plead that there isn't any fraud in the sugar schedule of the present tariff law?

President Taft's picture and like history do not appear in the Porto Rican book of the island's leading conservers of the liberties of the people.

Having a murder mystery, a week of carnival, and a disastrous fire in their midst within the course of a few months, to say nothing of a member of Congress who lives among them, the citizens of Alexandria have a right to feel the town possesses other claims to fame than the five-minute car service to Washington.

Maybe a certain person left the Big Sick at the customs house in care of Loch during the present open season in Africa.

The gentleman with the sure cure for poison ivy and prickly heat is just a little bit overdue. So it might be added is the season for prickly heat.

Have you cleared out your annual crop of Department of Agriculture hybrids yet, and instructed the hired man to make a real garden?

Count Boni is going hunting again; not for helices, but for wild game.

BOTH GOOD.

A soft answer turneth away wrath. The wrathful, but just as effective any day is an upper-cut.

—Philadelphia Bulletin.

SOLDIERS' HOME CONCERT

This Afternoon from 4 to 5:30 o'clock.

SOLDIERS' HOME BAND

JOHN S. M. ZIMMERMAN, Musical Director.

PROGRAM.

Grand March, "Triumphal".....	Robinson
Overture, "Morn, Noon, and Night in Vienna".....	von Suppe
Morceau, "Serenade, italienne".....	Czibulka
Grand Selection, "The Bartered Bride".....	Smetana
Descriptive Fantasia, "Gypsy Life".....	Le Thiere
Excerpts from "The Serenade".....	Herbert
Waltz Suite, "Plut D'O'r".....	Waldteufel
Finale, "Our Old Yets" (request).....	Zimmermann

PRESIDENT IS VICTOR OVER KNUTE NELSON

Minnesota Senator Finally Agrees Not to Oppose Appointment of Willard as Judge to Succeed Milton D. Purdy.

At a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee today, a favorable report was ordered on the nomination of Charles A. Willard as district judge in Minnesota.

The nomination will be reported to the Senate by Senator Nelson himself. This is the nomination which President Taft made after calling in all the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, aside from Mr. Nelson, for the purpose of telling them he wanted to name Willard; that Nelson had another candidate and that he hoped the Senators would see their way clear to withdraw his opposition.

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Milton D. Purdy, the chief trust buster of the Roosevelt administration, held the place for a time, but had to step down and out because Senator Nelson refused to permit confirmation. President Taft set out to induce Senator Nelson to yield, and though Mr. Nelson had another candidate on whom he was for a time insistent, he at length yielded.

The committee reported favorably a number of other judicial nominations. Among them were those of Judge Lansing of New Jersey, to be circuit judge of the third circuit, and District Judge Reel of New Jersey, named to succeed Judge Lansing when the latter was promoted.

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Capital Tales

SENATOR JOHNSTON of Alabama seldom makes a speech, but the one he made in the Senate the other day was entertaining. Johnston is a sober-looking personage who wouldn't be suspected of harboring any humor, but as a matter of fact he is chuck full of it. His recent speech was replete with stories and anecdotes. Arguing that the very consideration of the tariff tended to give a man "intellectual strabismus" he said:

"I feel that it is something like the Presbyterian elder who was whipping his child for mistaking the facts about the cost of production or the cost of appropriating a watermelon, and he asked him, in the course of his correction, what the Bible said about lars. The boy disclaimed knowing; but as the switch came down with greater vigor he finally decided that he knew, and said 'I know what it is,' and his father said, 'What is it?' The boy said, 'A lars is an abomination in the sight of the Lord, but a very present help in time of trouble.'"

"Certainly," added Senator Johnston, when the laughter had subsided, "this is a time of trouble for the manufacturer."

Raps Aldrich.

Senator Johnston was shying a brick or two at Senator Aldrich apropos of Senator Aldrich's recent statement that the appropriations last session could have been reduced \$50,000,000 without impairing the efficiency of the Government.

"Where was Frederick, then?" asked Senator Johnston, alluding to last session when the appropriations were made and when Senator Aldrich was silent. "One blast upon his bugle here was worth \$50,000,000. We can congratulate the Senator that it is better to repent now than never to repent at all."

"The Senator reminds me of an old man down in my State who, desiring to break a steer, concluded that the best plan was to yoke himself up with the steer. He lived near a courteous town. After he had yoked himself up, the steer ran away with him, and he had to keep a rapid pace in order to prevent his head from being pulled off by the yoke that he was wearing. Finally, they got into the courthouse town. The steer ran him around the square, and he yelled to the bystanders: 'Won't somebody stop us damned fools quick?' So it is with these appropriations."

SENATOR DOLLIVER, whose great two days' tariff speech is still a chief subject of discussion at the Capitol, has a subtle sense of humor which ripens late.

He hands out funny things, of which the point doesn't appeal to his hearers till he has got half-way down into the next sentence, and then the audience is apt to wake up and begin to applaud or burst into laughter. But once in a while he is so fast that folks never do catch up with him.

It was two days after his tariff speech before Dolliver began getting returns on what he had supposed was one of the best things in it. Then somebody discovered the point, told somebody else, and presently the Senate was guffing about it.

The Senator had launched into a statement about a sample of goods he was displaying with all the union of a dry-goods clerk. "I have here," he said, "a sample of a very common line of goods; you will note that it is an extremely attractive article; we can put it in our course."

"I suppose," interjected Senator Smoot, "that the Senator is going to represent that that piece of goods is a sample of an increased duty."

That was Dolliver's chance. "Ah," he said, "the prophetic soul of Senator Smoot! I never thought, at the time, about Smoot being one of the prophets of the Mormon Church."

Since the point was discovered Dolliver has cashed in full returns on it, but Senator Smoot is among those who have explained that they only got the point by flouting.

SENATOR HEYBURN, of Idaho, doesn't look especially like a philanthropist, but he did a right good turn by Congress incident to the coming of the circus to town.

"The greatest show on earth" has been here this week; it doesn't make any difference which one; they're all that. On the morning of the day it arrived, a clever young man detached himself from the main aggregation and betook himself to the Capitol to labor about the revision of the tariff.

Not that the tariff on circuses has been boosted by the House bill or the Finance Committee measure. Circuses have somehow been overlooked. But Senator Heyburn has introduced a revenue amendment providing for a tax of two cents per square foot per annum on the working surface of billboards; and the circus folks see in it an insidious proposal for taking away their profits.

So the bright young man from the box office put in his time while the circus was in town, laboring with statesmen in opposition to any such impost, and report has it that anybody who wanted them was put in touch with an unfailing supply of "comps" for the unparalleled, unprecedented, cursing and blaspheming aggregation of world wonders of earth, air and sky.

Getting Better Every Sunday

Some of the reasons why it was worth while reading the Sunday evening edition of The Times yesterday are as follows:

James Hay, jr., described in masterly fashion how tragedy has clasped hands with childhood in the case of Dorothy Willard.

New light was thrown on the career of Capt. Charles Foxwell, who is accused of obtaining thousands of dollars from mining investors, and his wife, who is known as Lady Alice.

The winners were announced in the Automobile Club reliability run.

The first announcement was made that Dr. William C. Borden is slated to succeed Dr. W. L. R. Phillips as dean of the George Washington University Medical College.

News was first published of the hold-up of the Great Northern train by bandits, who wrecked the cars, stole \$20,000, and caused injury to a score of persons.

Details were given of the \$100,000 fire at Norfolk, Va.

MISS DURAND IS HONOR GUEST OF MRS. THOMAS WALSH AT LUNCHEON.

Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh was hostess at luncheon today, asking her guests to meet Miss Josephine Durand, daughter of the former British ambassador, who is visiting Miss Marion Oliver.

In the company were Mrs. Preston Gibson, Mrs. Bugher, Mrs. William Barrett Ridgely, Miss Marion Oliver, Miss Katherine Jennings, Miss Mary Sheridan, Miss Eleanor Terry, Miss Margery Colton, Miss Louise Foraker, and Mrs. Edward B. McLean.

Mr. and Mrs. Ten Eyck Wendell will close their Washington residence on Connecticut avenue shortly and will leave Tuesday, May 25, for the summer. They will spend a few days at the Hotel Gotham, New York city, before opening their country place, Lakelawn, at Cazenovia, N. Y. Ten Eyck Wendell, jr., a student at the Friends' School, will accompany his parents.

Colonel and Miss Margery Colton will leave Washington the latter part of June for York Harbor, Me., where they will spend the summer.

Miss Ruth Bliss, daughter of Mrs. George Bliss, of Bancroft place, will return to Washington today from Baltimore, where she has been spending some time.

Mrs. Charles H. Nichols has issued cards for a bridge-luncheon Thursday.

Goes to New York.

Miss Sallie Garlington, daughter of General and Mrs. Garlington, will leave Washington next week for New York, where she will be the guest of friends for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiborg and the Misses Wiborg will leave Washington about the middle of June for Europe, where they will spend the summer.